

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. In the office action (OA) mailed 12/15/2003, claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8-14 were pending. The OA rejected claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9-14 and objected to claim 8. In particular, the OA noted that "none of the prior art of record discloses . . . the position of the breakaways disposed on the busses of the wiring panel -- to perform isolation of the contacts on the rough stage of assembling the modular wiring system." (OA pp. 4-5).

Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12 and 14 have been canceled. Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form to include many of the limitations of intervening claims 6 and 7 according to the original "Preliminary Amendment" dated 6/6/2002. Further, independent claims 10 and 13 have been amended to include breakaway limitations, and new independent claim 17 also includes a breakaway limitation. New claims 15 and 16 depend from claims 10 and 13, respectively.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8, 10, 13 and 15-17 are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests that this application be passed to issuance. If, however, the Examiner believes that any issue remains that requires clarification, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICE OF GLENN R. SMITH

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